

WHAT IS CLAIMED AS NEW AND IS DESIRED TO BE SECURED BY LETTERS  
PATENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS:

Swb  
A27

1. An image forming apparatus, comprising:  
a writing device configured to write and form an image on  
5 a surface of an image forming apparatus;  
a developing device configured to develop the image  
formed on the surface of the image bearing member; and  
an upper duct provided on and a lower duct provided  
beneath a housing of the writing device to form an outside-air  
10 flowing path.

2. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein an opening is provided to the lower duct such that the  
opening is covered by the housing.

3. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein an open upper side of the housing is covered by a  
scanner frame of an original document reading device, and  
wherein the upper duct is provided in the scanner frame.

4. The image forming apparatus according to claim 3,  
wherein an opening is provided to the upper duct and is  
covered by the scanner frame.

5. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein outside-air intaken by a single air intake fan flows  
through each of the upper duct and the lower duct.

6. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1,  
30 wherein a fan is provided to an outside-air intake inlet and  
an air discharge outlet at least one of the upper duct and the  
lower duct.

10042197-011100

Sub  
A2  
cont

7 The image forming apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein scanning optical components formed of a plastic are  
used in the writing device.

5 8. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein an outside-air that flowed through at least one of the  
upper duct and the lower duct is used to cool components other  
than the writing device.

10 9. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein an outside-air that flowed through one of or both of  
the upper and lower ducts is used to remove ozone produced in  
the image forming apparatus.

15 10. An image forming apparatus, comprising:  
means for writing and forming an image on a surface of an  
image forming apparatus;  
means for developing the image formed on the surface of  
the image bearing member; and  
20 an upper duct provided above and a lower duct provided  
beneath a housing of the writing means to form an outside-air  
flowing path.

25 11. The image forming apparatus according to claim 10,  
wherein an opening is provided to the lower duct such that the  
opening is covered by the housing.

30 12. The image forming apparatus according to claim 10,  
wherein an open upper side of the housing is covered by a  
scanner frame of an original document reading device, and  
wherein the upper duct is provided in the scanner frame.

Sub  
Q2  
Cm7

13. The image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein an opening is provided to the upper duct, and the opening is covered by the scanner frame.

14. The image forming apparatus according to claim 10, wherein outside-air intaken by a single air intake fan flows through each of the upper duct and the lower duct.

15. The image forming apparatus according to claim 10, wherein a fan is provided to an outside-air intake inlet and a air discharge outlet to at least one of the upper duct and the lower duct.

16. The image forming apparatus according to claim 10, wherein scanning optical components formed of a plastic are used in the writing means.

17. The image forming apparatus according to claim 10, wherein outside-air that flows through at least one of the upper duct and lower duct is used to cool components other than the writing means.

18. The image forming apparatus according to claim 10, wherein outside-air that flows through at least one of the upper duct and the lower ducts is used to remove ozone produced in the image forming apparatus.